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05/31/2009

Appl. No. 10/716,580

Amdt. dated May 26, 2009

Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 Expedited Procedure

Examining Group 1647

PATENT**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A vector for the expression of immunoglobulin-cytokine fusion proteins in malignant B cells, comprising the following components operably linked to each other
 - (a) a continuous region of at least 1.5 kb which is homologous to an at least 1.5 kb segment of the μ intron or the k intron;
 - (b) at least one DNA sequence encoding a constant region of an immunoglobulin or a part of the constant region;
 - (c) a DNA sequence encoding a cytokine; and
 - (d) a marker gene which is selectable in eukaryotic B cells and contains a functional enhancer region.
2. (Currently amended) The vector according to claim 1, wherein said continuous region of at least 1.5 kb contains a functional C_μ or C_k enhancer.
3. (Currently amended) The vector according to claim 1, wherein said continuous region of at least 1.5 kb contains a non-functional C_μ or C_k enhancer.
4. (Previously presented) The vector according to claim 1, wherein the marker gene selectable in eukaryotic B cells contains a non-functional enhancer.
5. (Previously presented) The vector according to claim 1, wherein the marker gene selectable in eukaryotic B cells lacks an enhancer.
6. (Canceled)

Appl. No. 10/716,580
Amdt. dated May 26, 2009
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 Expedited Procedure
Examining Group 1647

PATENT

7. (Previously presented) The vector according to claim 1, wherein the region homologous to a region comprising the C_μ or the C_k enhancer of the μ or the k intron comprises at least 1.9 kb.

8. (Previously presented) The vector according to claim 1, wherein the region homologous to a region comprising the C_μ or the C_k enhancer of the u or the k intron comprises at least 2.0 kb.

9. (Previously presented) The vector according to claim 1, said vector containing a regulatory unit which is compatible with bacteria.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously presented) The vector according to claim 1, wherein the DNA sequence of (b) encodes the constant region of a human immunoglobulin.

12. (Previously presented) The vector according to claim 1, wherein the DNA sequence of (b) encodes the constant region of a mouse, rat, goat, horse or sheep immunoglobulin.

13. (Previously presented) The vector according to claim 1, wherein the DNA sequence of (b) encodes the constant region of a secretory antibody.

14. (Previously presented) The vector according to claim 1, wherein the DNA sequence according to (b) encodes the constant region of a membrane-bound antibody.

15. (Previously presented) The vector according to claim 1, characterized in that said DNA sequence of (c) encodes an interleukin, an interferon, a colony-stimulating factor, a lymphokine, or a growth factor.

16. (Previously presented) The vector according to claim 15, characterized in that said DNA sequence of (c) encodes IL-2, IL-4, IL-7, IL-12, IL-13, GM-CSF or interferon γ .

Appl. No. 10/716,580

PATENT

Amdt. dated May 26, 2009

Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 Expedited Procedure

Examining Group 1647

17. (Previously presented) The vector according to claim 1, wherein the selectable marker gene is gpt, neo, or a marker gene encoding hygromycin resistance.

18-28. (Canceled)

/CMW/
05/31/2009

(Previously Presented)

29. ~~---(Withdrawn)---~~ A malignant B cell containing a vector according to claim 1 in integrated form, wherein an immunoglobulin-cytokine fusion protein is expressed by said cell.

30. (Canceled)